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Amendments to the specification:

On page 1, after the title, please insert the following:

CROSS-REFERENCE

The invention described and claimed hereinbelow is also described in PCT/EP 03/05348, filed on May 22, 2003 and DE 102 42 155.2, filed September 11, 2002. This German Patent Application, whose subject matter is incorporated here by reference, provides the basis for a claim of priority of invention under 35 U.S.C. 119 (a)-(d).

On page 1, before line 5, please insert the following heading:

Background of the Invention

On page 1, please amend the first paragraph as follows:

The invention relates to a power supply independent hot air dryer ~~device~~ for generating a hot air flow ~~as generically defined by the preamble to claim 1~~.

On page 1, please amend the second paragraph as follows:

One such hot air dryer ~~device~~ is known from US Patent 5,857,262, for instance, which ~~as the device~~ describes a hot air dryer for drying hair. The hot air is generated by a catalytic heating element, which is supplied with a liquid fuel; the flow of hot air is generated by an electric blower, which is supplied by a battery or a rechargeable accumulator ~~battery~~. One disadvantage of this is that

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for operating the hot air dryer ~~device~~, not only must liquid fuel be replenished, but the battery must be replaced with a new battery from time to time or the accumulator ~~battery~~ must be recharged repeatedly externally, via a power supply unit, which in practice makes the device inconvenient to manipulate. For operating the hot air dryer, not only must the fuel reservoir be adequately filled, but the battery or the accumulator must be sufficiently charged.

On page 1, after line 16, please insert the following:

Summary of the Invention

On page 1, please amend the third paragraph as follows:

The object of the invention is to create a hot air dryer ~~device~~ of this same generic type which makes it unnecessary to replace or recharge a battery or accumulator for operating the device and thus makes the hot air dryer ~~device~~ easier to manipulate.

On page 1, please delete the paragraph contained in lines 22-23 in its entirety.

On page 1, before line 25, please insert the following:

Brief Description of the Drawings

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On page 1, please amend line 28 as follows:

Fig. 1, in a schematic side view, shows a hot air dryer ~~as the device~~; and

On page 2, before line 4, please insert the following:

Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiments

On page 2, please amend the paragraph contained in lines 4-24 as follows:

In Fig. 1, ~~as~~ a power supply independent hot air dryer 3 ~~device 1~~ for generating a hot air flow 2[[,]] ~~a hot air dryer 3~~ for drying hair is shown; heat 4 is generated by a catalytic heating element 5, which is supplied by a gas of a liquid fuel 6. A stream 14 of the hot air 2 is generated by an electric blower 7, which aspirates ambient air 15. The hot air dryer 3 ~~device 1~~ is provided with a fuel cell 8, which supplies the blower 7 with electrical energy 9 via a line 19. A fuel reservoir 10 for the liquid fuel 6 is provided, which communicates with the fuel cell 8 via a line 20, a valve 11, and a line 21, and with the catalytic heating element 5 via the valve 11 and a line 22, for the sake of supplying them jointly with the fuel 6 from the fuel reservoir 10. For ongoing operation of the device 1, only one operating fuel is needed. Pressing on an actuating device 18 opens the valve 11, and as a result the fuel cell 8 immediately furnishes electrical energy 9 to the blower 7 and supplies the catalytic heating element 5 with fuel 6. As a result, the valve 11 acts like an electrical on/off switch. Besides supplying the blower 7, the fuel cell 8 also supplies an electronic control unit 12, and selectively

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still other electric components 13 of the device 1 with electrical energy 9. A filling valve 16 is used for replenishing the fuel reservoir 10 with liquid fuel 6. For monitoring the level of liquid fuel 6, a viewing port 17 is provided, and at least in the region of the viewing port 17, the fuel reservoir 10 is of transparent material ~~18~~. A handle 23 is used for grasping the hot air dryer 3 and also serves to hold the fuel reservoir 10, fuel cell 8, and valve 11. ~~As further exemplary embodiments of a device 1, a curling iron or a space heater, not shown, may be contemplated.~~

On page 3, please amend the paragraph contained in lines 20-29 as follows:

Fig. 2 shows a block circuit diagram for the function of the hot air dryer (hairdryer) of Fig. 1. By way of the valve 11 that can be switched by hand, the gaseous fuel 6 is supplied from the refillable fuel reservoir 10, which may for instance be embodied as a metal hydride reservoir, simultaneously to the catalytic heating element 5 and the fuel cell 8. As a result, heat 4 occurs in the heating element 5, and electrical energy 9 occurs in the fuel cell 8, for operating the electric blower 7, the electronic control unit 12 for the blower 7, and other electric components 13 of the hot air dryer ~~device 1~~. The air stream 14 of the blower 7 is carried through the heating element 5, thereby converting the heat 4 into a hot air flow 2 (Fig. 1).

On page 4, please amend line 4 as follows:

~~1 Device~~

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